

## REMARKS

Applicants submit the Amendment in response to the Office Action mailed June 28, 2004. Claims 1-56 are withdrawn, and previously pending claims 57-62 are cancelled herein, in favor of newly presented claims 63-76, which are supported in the specification as discussed below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview held on September 1, 2004, and acknowledge the Interview Summary dated September 15, 2004. The region of SEQ ID NO:74 having homology to the Norrie disease gene is clarified and discussed further, below, in response to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 57-62 are provisionally rejected over claims 8-13 and 28 of copending application Serial No. 10/355,716. As this is a provisional double patenting rejection, applicants request that the Examiner hold it in abeyance pending notification of allowable subject matter in either application.

Claims 57-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention allegedly lacks patentable utility. At page 3 of the Office Action mailed June 28, 2004, the Examiner states that the argument presented in the response filed December 23, 2003 is unconvincing for two reasons: 1) the gene disclosed by Chen et al. (Nature Genetics 1(3):204-208 (1992)) is not described definitively as being the gene that causes Norrie disease, but rather as a candidate gene for that disease, and 2) one skilled in the art would not have considered SEQ ID NO:74 as encoding the Norrie gene. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Regarding reason 1, Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to more recently published scientific literature which has removed any uncertainty about the association of the gene disclosed by Chen et al. (1992) and Norrie disease. Kim et al. (Korean J. Ophthalmol. 16(2):93-96 (2002)) and Strausberg et al. (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 99(26):16899-16903 (2002)) each disclose a human nucleotide sequence containing the gene specifically defined as being the Norrie disease gene (GenBank Accession Nos. NM\_000266 and BC029901, respectively). Tests using the BLASTN nucleotide sequence alignment algorithm (Version 2.2.9) demonstrate sequence identities of 100% and 99% for NM\_000266 and BC029901, respectively, with the

nucleotide sequence disclosed by Chen et al. (1992) (GenBank Accession No. X65882).

Alignments are submitted herewith as Exhibits 1 and 2.

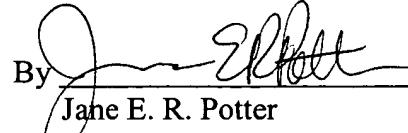
Regarding reason 2, Applicants agree with the Examiner that SEQ ID NO: 74 could not encode the full Norrie disease-associated polypeptide. However, Applicants reiterate their contention, presented on pages 3 and 4 of the amendment filed on March 18, 2002, that SEQ ID NO:74 contains significant nucleotide sequence homology with the Norrie disease gene. A test using the BLASTN nucleotide sequence alignment algorithm (Version 2.2.9) demonstrates a sequence identity of 88% between SEQ ID NO:74 and the human Norrie disease gene sequence disclosed by Chen et al. (1992) (GenBank Accession No. X65882). On page 16, lines 12-36 of the specification, the utility of polynucleotides of 50, 90 and 150 nucleotides in length is described: such polynucleotides "... are generally sufficient for unique identification of specific location in genomic DNA of a sequence coding for an unique protein. Furthermore, a 50-base pair sequence is long enough to design a PCR primer from the sequence to amplify the complete polynucleotides," (lines 31-36). Base pair numbers 1-155 of SEQ ID NO:74 contain this 88% identity with the Norrie disease gene and, with this amendment, they are now specified in the newly-submitted claims 63-76. These claims are clearly supported as discussed above.

In the Office Action mailed June 28, 2004, citing reasons discussed in the Office Action of June 4, 2002, page 2, the Examiner has also rejected claims 57-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. With the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement accompanying this Amendment, Chen et al. (1992) is now part of the record. Also entered in the record are Kim et al. (2002) and Strausberg et al. (2002), which are cited above as supporting evidence that the nucleotide sequence described in Chen et al. (1992) is in fact the Norrie disease gene. The third, fourth and fifth reasons the for lack of enablement rejection cited by the Examiner on page 2 of the June 4, 2002 Office Action are now obviated by this Amendment: 3) the sequence alignment of SEQ ID NO:74 and the Norrie disease gene is now in the record; 4) as explained in the immediately preceding paragraph, lines 12-36 of page 16 of the specification describe the use of SEQ ID NO:74; and 5) withdrawal of all claims pertaining to Norrie disease-specific polypeptide make moot this ground of rejection.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

If questions remain regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (206) 628-7650.

Respectfully submitted,  
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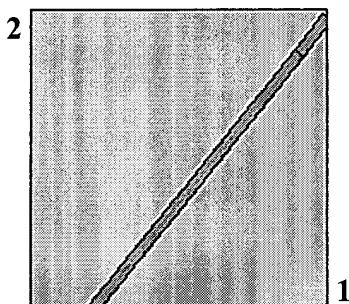
BLAST 2 SEQUENCES RESULTS VERSION BLASTN 2.2.9 [May-01-2004]

Match:  Mismatch:  gap open:  gap extension:   
x dropoff:  expect:  wordsize:  Filter  Align

Sequence 1 gi 35016 Chen et al. - H.sapiens mRNA NDP

Length 1846 (1 .. 1846)

**Sequence 2** gi 20987431 Strausberg et al. - Homo sapiens Norrie disease (pseudoglioma), mRNA **Length** 1495 (1 .. 1495)



Score = 2777 bits (1444), Expect = 0.0  
Identities = 1453/1455 (99%), Gaps = 1/1455 (0%)  
Strand = Plus / Plus

Norrie disease protein 56      S S K M V L L A R C E G H C S Q A S R S

Seq 1:                            633 cgagccttggtgcgttcagcactgtcctcaagcaacccttcgttcctcgtcactg 692  
 ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||  
 Seq 2:                            241 cgagccttggtgcgttcagcactgtcctcaagcaacccttcgttcctcgtcactg 300  
 Norrie disease protein 76      E P L V S F S T V L K Q P F R S S C H C

Seq 1:                            693 ctgccggccccagacttccaagctgaaggcactgcggctgcgtatgcgtcaggggcatg 752  
 ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||  
 Seq 2:                            301 ctgccggccccagacttccaagctgaaggcactgcggctgcgtatgcgtcaggggcatg 360  
 Norrie disease protein 96      C R P Q T S K L K A L R L R C S G G M R

Seq 1:                            753 actcaactgcccacctaccggtacatcctctcgtcactgcgtcaggaaatgcattcgtagg 812  
 ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||  
 Seq 2:                            361 actcaactgcccacctaccggtacatcctctcgtcactgcgtcaggaaatgcattcgtagg 420  
 Norrie disease protein 116     L T A T Y R Y I L S C H C E E C N S ^^^

Seq 1:                            813 cccgctgctgtgtggcttctggatggacaactgttagaggcagttcgaccagccagg 872  
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 Seq 2:                            421 cccgctgctgtgtggcttctggatggacaactgttagaggcagttcgaccagccagg 480

Seq 1:                            873 aaagactggcaagaaaagagttaggcaaaaaaggatgcacaattctccggactctg 932  
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 Seq 2:                            481 aaagactggcaagaaaagagttaggcaaaaaaggatgcacaattctccggactctg 540

Seq 1:                            933 catattctagaataaaagactctacatgcttgcacagagagagatactctggaaactt 992  
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Seq 1:                            993 ctttgcagttcccatctccttctctggtacaatttctttggttcatttcagattc 1052  
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Seq 1:                            1053 gcattttcccccttggctctcaatgctgtttgggttccaacaattcagcattagtgg 1112  
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 Seq 2:                            661 gcattttcccccttggctctcaatgctgtttgggttccaacaattcagcattagtgg 720

Seq 1:                            1113 aaaagtggccctcatacacaagcgtgtcaggctgtcagtgtttgggcacgcgtggaa 1172  
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Seq 1:                            1173 gaatttactttggaaagttagaaaagcccagctttcctggacatctctgttattgtt 1232  
 ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| ||||| |||||  
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Seq 1:                            1233 atgttttttttaccttgcatttggtaagggtgccattgtctaaaggttaccga 1292

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Seq 2:                                841 atgttttttaccttgtcatttggctaaaggccattgctgctaaaggttaccga 900

Seq 1:                                1293 tttcaaagtccagataccaagcatgtggatatgttagctacgttactcacagccagcg 1352
Seq 2:                                901 tttcaaagtccagataccaagcatgtggatatgttagctacgttactcacagccagcg 960

Seq 1:                                1353 aactgacattaaataactaacaacagattctttatgtgatgctgaaactcttgacag 1412
Seq 2:                                961 aactgacattaaataactaacaacagattctttatgtgatgctgaaactcttgacag 1020

Seq 1:                                1413 ctataattattattcagaaatgacttttggaaatggaaaatggataaggcagcataaagaatttgcac 1472
Seq 2:                                1021 ctataattattattcagaaatgacttttggaaatggaaaatggataaggcagcataaagaatttgcac 1080

Seq 1:                                1473 aggaaggctgtctcagataaattatggaaaatggataaggcagcataaagaatttgcac 1532
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Seq 1:                                1533 ttgcacaaatacggatcctgcactgactctggaaaaggcatatatgtactagtgcatgg 1592
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Seq 1:                                1772 tcctggaggctcaaatttggatattccacgtttgaaataaaaagagtatattcaaa 1831
Seq 2:                                1381 tcctggaggctcaaatttggatattccacgtttgaaataaaaagagtatattcaaa 1440

Seq 1:                                1832 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa 1846
Seq 2:                                1441 aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa 1455
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SEA 1556717v1 59810-3

Gapped  
Lambda K H  
1.33 0.621 1.12

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Number of extensions: 60  
Number of successful extensions: 50  
Number of sequences better than 10.0: 1  
Number of HSP's better than 10.0 without gapping: 1  
Number of HSP's gapped: 32  
Number of HSP's successfully gapped: 2  
Number of extra gapped extensions for HSPs above 10.0: 0  
Length of Seq 1: 1846  
Length of database: 11,840,914,473  
Length adjustment: 26  
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Effective length of database: 11,840,914,447  
Effective search space: 21550464293540  
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Neighboring words threshold: 0  
Window for multiple hits: 0  
X1: 11 (21.1 bits)  
X2: 26 (50.0 bits)  
X3: 26 (50.0 bits)  
S1: 12 (25.0 bits)  
S2: 21 (41.1 bits)

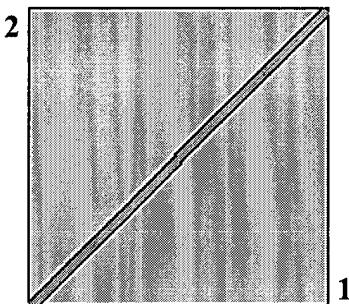
## BLAST 2 SEQUENCES RESULTS VERSION BLASTN 2.2.9 [May-01-2004]

Match:  Mismatch:  gap open:  gap extension:   
 x\_dropoff:  expect:  wordsize:   Filter  Align

**Sequence 1** gi\_35016 Chen et al. - H.sapiens mRNA NDP

**Length** 1846 (1 .. 1846)

**Sequence 2** gi\_4557788 Kim et al. - Homo sapiens Norrie disease (pseudoglioma) (NDP), mRNA **Length** 1846 (1 .. 1846)



Score = 3549 bits (1846), Expect = 0.0

Identities = 1846/1846 (100%)

Strand = Plus / Plus

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Seq 1:	61	gtcctaactttgtgtgtcaaataaaaggcaaggccatgtgacagaggacagaaga	120
Seq 2:	61	gtcctaactttgtgtgtcaaataaaaggcaaggccatgtgacagaggacagaaga	120
Seq 1:	121	acaaaagcatttggaaagtaacaggacactttctagctctcagaaaagtctgagaagaaa	180
Seq 2:	121	acaaaagcatttggaaagtaacaggacactttctagctctcagaaaagtctgagaagaaa	180
Seq 1:	181	ggagccctgcgttcccctaagctgtcagcagatactgtgatgtggattgcaagtgcaa	240
Seq 2:	181	ggagccctgcgttcccctaagctgtcagcagatactgtgatgtggattgcaagtgcaa	240
Seq 1:	241	agagtaagacaaaactccagcacataaaggacaatgacaaccagaaagcttcagccgat	300
Seq 2:	241	agagtaagacaaaactccagcacataaaggacaatgacaaccagaaagcttcagccgat	300
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Seq 2: 301 cctgcccttccttgaacggactggatcctaggaggtgaagccattccaattttgt 360

Seq 1: 361 cctctgcctccctctgtgttcttagagaagttttcctacaacaatgagaaaacat 420

Seq 2: 361 cctctgcctccctctgtgttcttagagaagttttcctacaacaatgagaaaacat 420

Norrie disease protein 1 M R K H

Seq 1: 421 gtactagctgcattccatgtatgtccctgtggataatggagatacagacagt 480

Seq 2: 421 gtactagctgcattccatgtatgtccctgtggataatggagatacagacagt 480

Norrie disease protein 5 V L A A S F S M L S L L V I M G D T D S

Seq 1: 481 aaaacggacagactcattcataatggactcgaccctcgacgctgcatgaggcaccat 540

Seq 2: 481 aaaacggacagactcattcataatggactcgaccctcgacgctgcatgaggcaccat 540

Norrie disease protein 25 K T D S S F I M D S D P R R C M R H H Y

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Seq 2: 541 gtggattctatcagtcaccattgtacaagttagctcaaagatgggtgcctggcagg 600

Norrie disease protein 45 V D S I S H P L Y K C S S K M V L L A R

Seq 1: 601 tgcgaggggcaactgcagccaggcgtcagcgtccgagccttgggtcgttcactgtc 660

Seq 2: 601 tgcgaggggcaactgcagccaggcgtcagcgtccgagccttgggtcgttcactgtc 660

Norrie disease protein 65 C E G H C S Q A S R S E P L V S F S T V

Seq 1: 661 ctcaagcaacccttcgttccctgtcactgtgcgcggccccagacttcaagctgaag 720

Seq 2: 661 ctcaagcaacccttcgttccctgtcactgtgcgcggccccagacttcaagctgaag 720

Norrie disease protein 85 L K Q P F R S S C H C C R P Q T S K L K

Seq 1: 721 gcactgcggctgcgtgcgtcaggggcatgcgtactgcacccatccgtacatcctc 780

Seq 2: 721 gcactgcggctgcgtgcgtcaggggcatgcgtactgcacccatccgtacatcctc 780

Norrie disease protein 105 A L R L R C S G G M R L T A T Y R Y I L

Seq 1: 781 tcctgtcaactgcgaggaatgcattccgtggccgtgtgtgtggcttcgtggatgg 840

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Norrie disease protein 125 S C H C E E C N S ^^^

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Seq 2: 1321 atatgttagctacgttactcacagccagcgaactgacattaaaataactaacaacag 1380

Seq 1: 1381 attctttatgtgatgctggactcttgcacagctataattattattcagaaatgacttt 1440

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Seq 1: 1501 aaaattttgtaaaggagcagactttaaagacttgcacaaatacggatcctgcactgact 1560

Seq 2: 1501 aaaattttgtaaaggagcagactttaaagacttgcacaaatacggatcctgcactgact 1560

Seq 1: 1561 ctggaaaaggcatatgtacttagtggcatggagaatgcaccatactcatgcatgcaa 1620

Seq 2: 1561 ctggaaaaggcatatgtacttagtggcatggagaatgcaccatactcatgcatgcaa 1620

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Seq 1:          1621 tagacaaccaagtatgaatctattgtgggtgtgctatacgctgtcacgggcat 1680
          ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| |||||
Seq 2:          1621 tagacaaccaagtatgaatctattgtgggtgtgctatacgctgtcacgggcat 1680

Seq 1:          1681 cattctctaataatccacttgtccatgtgaaacatgttgcacaaatggtggcctggctgt 1740
          ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| |||||
Seq 2:          1681 cattctctaataatccacttgtccatgtgaaacatgttgcacaaatggtggcctggctgt 1740

Seq 1:          1741 cttctgaacgttggttcaaatgtgtttggcctggaggctcaaattttagttattcc 1800
          ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| |||||
Seq 2:          1741 cttctgaacgttggttcaaatgtgtttggcctggaggctcaaattttagttattcc 1800

Seq 1:          1801 cacgtttgaaataaaaagagtatattcaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa 1846
          ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| ||||||| |||||
Seq 2:          1801 cacgtttgaaataaaaagagtatattcaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa 1846
CPU time:      0.02 user secs.      0.01 sys. secs      0.03 total secs.

```

Lambda	K	H
1.33	0.621	1.12

Gapped	Lambda	K	H
	1.33	0.621	1.12

```

Matrix: blastn matrix:1 -2
Gap Penalties: Existence: 5, Extension: 2
Number of Sequences: 1
Number of Hits to DB: 578
Number of extensions: 31
Number of successful extensions: 17
Number of sequences better than 10.0: 1
Number of HSP's better than 10.0 without gapping: 1
Number of HSP's gapped: 1
Number of HSP's successfully gapped: 1
Number of extra gapped extensions for HSPs above 10.0: 0
Length of Seq 1: 1846
Length of database: 11,840,914,473
Length adjustment: 26
Effective length of Seq 1: 1820
Effective length of database: 11,840,914,447
Effective search space: 21550464293540
Effective search space used: 21550464293540
Neighboring words threshold: 0
Window for multiple hits: 0
X1: 11 (21.1 bits)
X2: 26 (50.0 bits)
X3: 26 (50.0 bits)
S1: 12 (25.0 bits)
S2: 21 (41.1 bits)

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